AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended).   A method for evaluating and selecting channel resource devices, comprising the steps of:

providing a communication platform comprising at least one ingress port, at least one egress port, and a plurality of channel resource devices, in which said channel resource devices operate to establish call connections in the communication platform between the at least one ingress port and at least one egress port;

providing a channel evaluator, the channel evaluator coupled to the plurality of channel resource devices in the communication platform;

receiving an incoming call and determining, at a call router, that the call needs to be assigned to an appropriate channel resource device, the call router coupled to the channel evaluator;

obtaining, at the channel evaluator, connection outcome results of previous call connections handled by the channel resource devices wherein the connection outcome results are indicative of channel resource device failures;

after obtaining connection outcome results, generating, at the channel evaluator, a statistical analysis based at least in part, on the connection outcome results of previous call connections handled by the channel resource devices wherein the generated statistical analysis provides an indication of reliability of the channel resource devices located in the communication platform; and

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assigning, at the call router, [[an]] the incoming call to at least one available channel resource device of the plurality of channel resource devices, said at least one available channel resource device selected at least in part, in response to the generated statistical analysis in the selection.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning an incoming call to the at least one available channel resource device is performed using the statistical analysis to identify channel resource devices that successfully connect calls.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein a non-preferred channel resource device is one which fails to connect calls, and wherein the step of assigning an incoming call to the at least one available channel resource device, comprises to not assign the incoming call to the non-preferred channel resource device.

Claim 4 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the connection outcome results in a buffer, the step of storing being performed after the step of receiving connection outcome results from previous call connections.

Claim 5 (Original). The method of claim 4, wherein the buffer is a circular buffer.

Claim 6 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the statistical analysis is a no weighting method.

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Claim 7 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the statistical analysis is a time-weighted method.

Claim 8 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the statistical analysis is an asymmetrical weighting method wherein success receives one value, and failure receives another value.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of classifying the available channel resource device based at least in part, on the statistical analysis.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the method is self adjusting in which, an available preferred channel resource device becomes an available non-preferred channel resource device due to a failed call connect attempt, and the available non-preferred channel resource device becomes the available preferred channel resource device due to a successful call connect attempt.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of indicating to a user a change in channel resource device status.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining which channels resource devices are available.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising assessing a failure to the available channel resource device upon an unsuccessful call connection through the channel resource device.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising reassigning the incoming call to a next preferred available channel resource device.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for maximizing call connect rate in a remote access application comprising in combination:

a channel evaluator on a communication platform in which the communication platform comprises at least ingress port, at least egress port, and a plurality of channel resource devices, the channel evaluator coupled to the plurality of channel resource devices, in which said channel resource devices operate to establish call connections in the communication platform between the at least one ingress port and at least one egress port in which the [[chancel]] channel evaluator is operable to (i) obtain connection outcome results, and after obtaining connection outcome results, and (ii) generate a statistical analysis based at least in part, on connection outcome results indicative of channel resource device failures wherein the generated statistical analysis provides an indication of reliability of the channel resource devices located in the communication platform;

a storage buffer for storing the connection outcome results, the storage buffer coupled to the channel evaluator; and

a call router for routing incoming calls to available channel resource devices selected in response to the generated statistical analysis, the call router coupled to the channel evaluator.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the channel evaluator classifies available channel resource devices, at least in part on the statistical analysis generated from the previous call connect results.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the channel evaluator classifies channel resource devices, at least in part on the availability of channel resource devices.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein incoming calls are assigned to available channel resource devices, and connected to the available channel resource devices through the call router based at least in part, on the statistical analysis.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the available channel resource devices are one of a plurality of ingress ports, a plurality of egress ports, and a plurality of channel processors.

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Claim 22 (Previously Presented). The method of claim1, where in the available channel resource devices are a plurality of ingress ports, a plurality of egress ports and a plurality of channel processors.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, where in available channel resource device failures are hardware failures.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, where in available channel resource device failures are software failures.

Claim 25 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein the channel evaluator is coupled to each of the channel resource devices in the communication platform.

Claim 26 (New).   The claim 1, further comprising:

    classifying, based at least in part on completion of the call, the at least one available channel resource device as a channel resource device that is selected from the group consisting of preferred channel resource devices and non-preferred channel resource devices.

Claim 27 (New).   The method of claim 1, where in the at least one available channel resource device is selected from the group consisting of a bank of modems, a bank of processors, and a bank of application cards.

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